

CLAIMS:

1. Method of enabling to program a control system (10) for controlling a CE device (7) of a combination type providing a combination of functionalities equivalent to that provided by a further combination of respective further devices with respective features, the CE device including an interface (17;27) for receiving a control signal to access the combination of functionalities, wherein the combination of functionalities determines possible operational states of the CE device (7), which method includes providing input data for a configuration process for generating program code enabling the control system (10) to determine a control signal controlling a transition between relevant ones of the possible states, characterized in that the input data is assembled by a data processing system (3;9;10) 5 in accordance with information defining the further combination of the respective further devices with the respective features received through an interface to the data processing system (3;9;10).
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2. Method according to claim 1, including receiving a command selecting one of 15 a custom combination device type and at least one pre-defined device type, wherein the input data is assembled upon receiving a command selecting the custom combination device type, wherein, if a pre-defined device type is selected, a complete set of input data associated with the selected pre-defined device type is retrieved from a data storage system and provided as input data for the configuration process.
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3. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the input data for the configuration process includes a set of control commands for association with control codes in a format interpretable by the CE device, wherein, in the step of assembling the input data, a control command directed at a specific one of the features included in a plurality of 25 the respective further devices in the defined combination is included in the set of control commands only once.
4. Method according any one of the preceding claims, wherein the input data includes at least a definition of a state variable for tracking the state of the CE device (7),

wherein, in the step of assembling the input data, at least one state variable is included corresponding to a state variable for tracking the state of a specific one of the respective further devices with basic features in the defined combination, wherein, upon determining that a state of a feature in a first of the respective further devices in the defined combination
5 is linked to a state of a feature in at least another of the respective further devices in the defined combination, only one corresponding state variable is included in the input data.

5. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, including assembling data for generating a graphical user interface on the control system (10) from respective
10 constituent sets of data defining a graphical user interface for each of a plurality of the respective further devices in the defined combination, wherein at least one screen view is defined in the assembled data including elements (12-14) defined in different ones of constituent sets of data.

15 6. Method according to claim 5, wherein duplicate elements (12-14) in the constituent sets of data are subtracted from the defined screen view.

7. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the information defining the combination of the respective further devices with respective basic features is
20 received as user input through a user interface.

8. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the assembled input data is added as an entry into a database.

25 9. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the assembled input data includes control commands, wherein the method includes associating control codes interpretable by the CE device (7) of the combination type with respective control commands prior to storing the assembled input data in the database.

30 10. Data processing system including a processor, memory and an external interface, and programmed to execute a method according to any one of claims 1-9.

11. Control system for controlling a CE device (7) of a combination type providing a combination of functionalities equivalent to that provided by a further

combination of respective further devices with respective features, the CE device (7) including an interface (17;27) for receiving a control signal to access the combination of functionalities, wherein the combination of functionalities determines possible operational states of the CE device (7), which control system (10) is configured to run a set-up process
5 for configuring the control system to determine a control signal controlling a transition between relevant ones of the possible states, characterized in that the control system is configured to provide an external interface and to adapt the set-up process in accordance with information defining the further combination of the respective further devices with features received through the external interface.

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12. Control system, including a processor, memory and an external interface, and programmed to execute a method according to any one of claims 1-9.

13. Computer program, adapted, when loaded and executed in a computer, 15 programmed computer network or other programmable apparatus, to put into force a method according to any one of claims 1-9.

14. A method of providing a service for assisting configuring a control architecture of a CE equipment, the method comprising providing access to a database of 20 multiple CE devices (7) of a combination type, each specific one providing a specific combination of functionalities equivalent to that provided by a specific combination of respective further devices with respective features, the method further comprising enabling to select a particular one of the CE devices for determining a control command for use on the CE equipment.